





(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

### Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Judiciary, Corrections and Privacy...

### **COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... CR
- Executive Sessions ... ES
- Public Hearings ... PH

## INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... Appt (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)

  (ab = Assembly Bill) (ar = Assembly Resolution) (ajr = Assembly Joint Resolution)

  (sb = Senate Bill) (sr = Senate Resolution) (sjr = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... Misc

### **Senate**

### **Record of Committee Proceedings**

### Committee on Judiciary, Corrections and Privacy

#### Senate Bill 691

Relating to: termination of mobile telephone contracts by members of the military. By Senators Brown, Decker, Carpenter and Taylor; cosponsored by Representatives Gundrum, Musser, Seidel, Suder, Boyle, Nass, Van Akkeren, Petrowski, Kestell, Lehman, Hundertmark, Ott, Pettis, Jeskewitz, M. Williams and McCormick.

April 13, 2006

Referred to Committee on Judiciary, Corrections and Privacy.

April 17, 2006

#### **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present:

(5) Senators Zien, Roessler, Grothman, Taylor and

Risser.

Absent:

(0) None.

#### Appearances For

- Mark Gundrum Representative, 84th Assembly District
- Melissa Inlow First Lieutenant, Department of Military Affairs
- Julio Barrow Lt Colonel, Department of Military Affairs
- Larry Olson Department of Military Affairs

#### **Appearances Against**

• None.

#### Appearances for Information Only

- Chris LaRowe WI State Telecom Affairs
- Brian Rybarik, Madison WI State Telecom Association

#### **Registrations For**

• Mike "Gunner" Furgal — Foreign Wars (VFW)

#### Registrations Against

• None.

#### April 19, 2006

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present:

(5) Senators Zien, Roessler, Grothman, Taylor and

Risser.

Absent:

(0) None.

Moved by Senator Grothman, seconded by Senator Taylor that LRB 2935/1 be recommended for introduction and adoption.

Ayes: (4) Senators Roessler, Grothman, Taylor and Risser.

Noes: (1) Senator Zien.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF LRB 2935/1 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 4, Noes 1

Moved by Senator Grothman, seconded by Senator Taylor that **Senate Bill 691** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (4) Senators Zien, Roessler, Grothman and Taylor.

Noes: (1) Senator Risser.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 4, Noes 1

Kimber Liedl Committee Clerk

# Vote Record Committee on Judiciary, Corrections and Privacy

Date: 4/19/06				
Moved by: Grotheno	Seconded b	y: Taylor_		
AB SB_	691	Clearinghouse Rul	e	
AJRSJR_		Appointment		
AR SR		Other	·	
A/S Amdt				
AVS Amdt	to A/S Amdt			
A/S Sub Amdt				
A/S Amdt	to A/S Sub Amdt			
A/S Amdt	to A/S Amdt	to A/S Sub Amdt		
Be recommended for:  ☐ Passage ☐ Adoption ☐ Introduction ☐ Rejection		☐ Concurrence☐ Nonconcurrence	□ Indefinite F	Postponement
Committee Member		Aye No	Absent	Not Voting
Senator David Zien, Chair	r			
Senator Carol Roessler				
Senator Glenn Grothman		<b>A</b> □		
Senator Lena Taylor		ʻ⊠ □		
Senator Fred Risser		헐 □		
	Totals	s: <u>4</u> <u>L</u>		

# Vote Record Committee on Judiciary, Corrections and Privacy

Date:			Taylor	
Moved by: Grothman		у:		
AD SB	69	Clearinghouse Rule	)	
		Appointment		
00		Other		
AR SR				
A/S Amdt				
A/S Amdt	to A/S Amdt			
A/S Sub Amdt				
A/S Amdt	to A/S Sub Amdt	,		
A/S Amdt	to A/S Amdt	to A	/S Sub Amdt	
Be recommended for: Passage	☐ Confirmation☐ Tabling	☐ Concurrence ☐ Nonconcurrence	☐ Indefinite Po	ostponement
Committee Member		Aye No	<u>Absent</u>	Not Voting
Senator David Zien, Cha	ir		旦	
Senator Carol Roessler		AZ 🗆		旦
Senator Glenn Grothman	1	ĭ⊠ □		
Senator Lena Taylor				
Senator Fred Risser			. $\square$	
	Tota	Is: 4		



## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



#### **Chris LaRowe**

From:

Chris LaRowe

Sent:

Monday, April 17, 2006 1:43 PM

To:

Chris LaRowe

Subject: SB 691 (Senate Judiciary)

#### Good afternoon

Mr. Chairman

Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today

As was stated, my name is Chris LaRowe – I'm the Manager of External Affairs for the Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association (WSTA)

Our membership includes 10 wireless carriers providing service in the state of Wisconsin

I am testifying today FYI on SB 691 (AB 1174)

While the bill, as introduced, is not overly problematic for our membership and we don't oppose it – we don't feel it's necessary given all of the major carriers have voluntary instituted programs to address this issue, which we feel are very workable and reasonable

#### Examples include:

- · Waiving early termination fees;
- · Holding contracts in abeyance for 1 year up to 18 months and beyond; and
- Termination of the service contracts without penalty in the event of relocation by an individual outside of the licensed service territory.

To the extent there exists isolated problems related to service contracts with members of the Military when they are ordered into Active duty, the industry remains committed to cooperatively working with those individuals and/or the Department of Military Affairs to amicably resolve those issues

As for the Amendment, which was adopted in the Assembly committee, and may be before you today, as we have expressed to the authors, we have serious concerns, especially as it relates to the damages language

This section of the Amendment allows a court to award up to 3 times the amount of any termination fee or penalty charged by the wireless carrier - by itself, this is a significant concern (especially in situations where the charges were made because of an inadvertent mistake) - however, the amendment also allows the court to add up to \$10,000 of "exemplary" or "punitive" damages as well as attorney and court fees - this means that the damages section is not limited to the amount charged by the wireless carrier, but is effectively at the discretion of a court, and limited only by a very high \$10,000 ceiling - as such, a simple mistake could result in a judgment of well over \$10,000 against a wireless carrier - for an industry that has, by in large, been addressing this concern with proactive policies to help customers who are called to Active duty, this is a significant penalty to face

In addition, the provisions related to vehicle and premises leases described in the analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau, are Federal requirements and a cursory review of the associated Federal penalties indicate they are much less severe than those included in Assembly Amendment 1

In closing, there are other issues related to Military personnel requiring proof of orders, wireless carriers knowingly violating the statutes, or some form of gross negligence, and how to handle expensive handsets associated with some of these service contracts that remain a work in progress and we would respectfully request additional time to work with the authors to find reasonable middle-ground

Thanks again for opportunity to be here today and I'd be happy to attempt to answer any questions Committee members may have



## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



4/17/06 5B691 (AB1174 comparion) Assembly Hearing 4/12 . A Harrish 640,2 Taylor soldiers

- Should It have to return cell phone
unless they got it for free. Brian Revord Risser ainter state commerce legalations states con rigulate terms à conditions not rates. Sometimes a fine line in between the two. >Expand Fire & Police Commission from 5 to 9 people - A portion appointed, a portion elected Thurs meeting? Risser - ok of Milwanken worts at (mayor)